

BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

A N N U A L R E P O R T
O F T H E
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
F O R T H E
Y E A R E N D I N G 31st D E C E M B E R,
1 9 5 5.

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A. W. HANSELL, M.B., B.S.,
Medical Officer of Health.

BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

North Riding of Yorkshire

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for
the year ending 31st December,
1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedale Rural District Council,

SIR, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report
for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

- (1) One Medical Officer of Health (Part time)
- (2) One Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor (Full time)
- (3) One Waterworks Manager (Full time)

STATISTICS.

Area	...	...	...	...	43,302 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1955)					8,130
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books (end of 1955)					2,195
Rateable Value of the Area	...	...	...		£41,351
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...		170. 2s. 0d

NOTE:

The figure given above for the estimated population includes members of the Armed Forces stationed in the Area.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
Legitimate	59	59	118	Birth Rate
Illegitimate	—	1	1	14.6
	<u>59</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>119</u>	

Stillbirths.

Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Deaths

36	29	65	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 8.1
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<u>Deaths from Maternal Causes</u>	...	...	Nil
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Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of Age

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) Laboratory facilities. | (d) Ambulance Services. |
| (b) Clinics and Treatment Centres. | (e) Hospitals. |
| (c) Nursing Services. | |

Inadequacy of accommodation for the chronic sick and aged and infirm who cannot be efficiently looked after at home continues to be a cause for anxiety. Very little improvement has been made in this direction during the last year. Otherwise the services mentioned above have satisfactorily met the needs of the District.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

W A T E R.

1. QUANTITY.

The water supply over the whole area has been satisfactory with the exception of the higher elevated places, namely Gebdykes, Clifton, Crakehall and neighbouring villages where shortages have occurred during the hours of peak demand. To overcome these troubles in the Gebdykes and Clifton District the Council has constructed a sectional steel storage tank of 9,000 gallons capacity at Gebdykes at an elevation of 500 ft. above O.D. This storage tank has prevented the overdrawing of the mains and this maintained an adequate and constant pressure of water to consumers in these higher elevated parts.

In an endeavour to overcome future difficulties the Council proposes to construct a Service Reservoir of not less than 300,000 gallons capacity at Pasture Hill near Cowling at an elevation of 480 feet above O.D. This Reservoir is expected to be started at the early part of 1956 and completed the same year.

During the year the water level in the well at Bellerby was seriously affected by drought.

2. QUALITY.

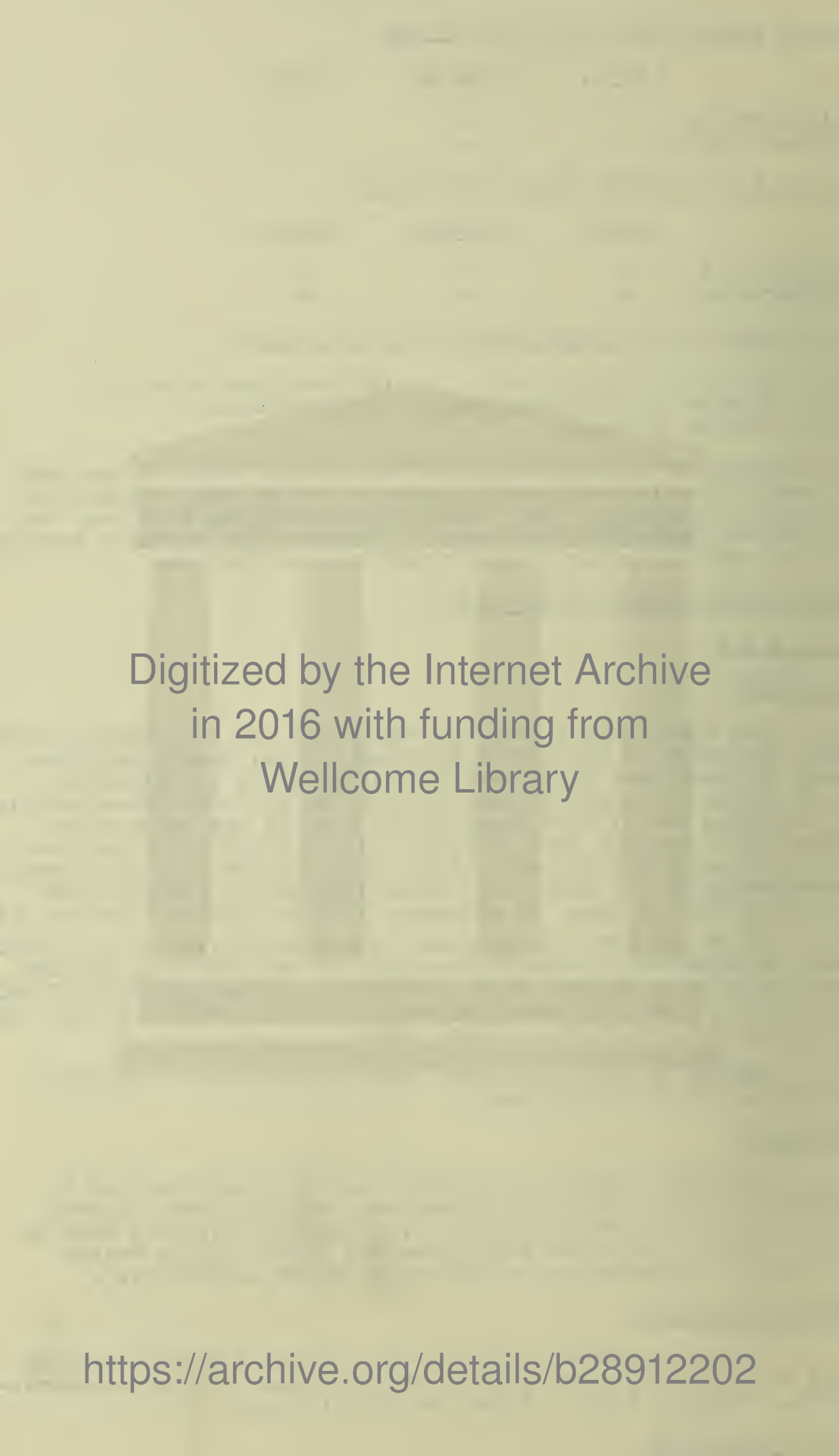
The water supply to the whole area has been treated by chlorination and the quality has been very satisfactory. During the year 25 samples have been taken from fittings supplied from the Council's mains. All these were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory for analysis and in all cases proved satisfactory.

3. FRACTURED MAINS.

Work on fractured mains at the following places has been carried out with the least possible inconvenience to the consumers:- Crakehall, Scruton, Bedale, Thirn and Stubbin Nook.

4. MAIN EXTENSION.

During the year a 3" main extension has been carried out in order to afford a supply to the 24 new Council Houses at Leeming Bar.



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WATER (Cont).

5. INSTALLATION OF BOOSTER PUMP & REMOVAL OF CHLORINATION PLANT AT BELLERBY.

In July 1955 it was apparent that something must be done to maintain a constant supply. A special Meeting of the Council was held and permission granted to install a booster pump. A scheme was prepared for boosting the water forward from Bellerby to effect an increased delivery and an enhanced pressure to the higher parts of the Council's area of supply.

The work was taken in hand immediately and within three weeks of commencement the booster pump was running and giving very satisfactory results. At that time, of course, the pumps and motors were just under temporary cover but this was followed by the preparation of the necessary plans etc., and the permanent pump and chlorination house was built.

6. CONSUMPTION.

Appromimate daily consumption in the Bedale Rural District. (Normal consumers)	315,000 galls.
Approximate daily consumption in the Leyburn Rural District.	55,000 galls.
Leeming Aerodrome.	130,000 galls.
Approximate total daily consumption.	<u>500,000</u> galls.

7. CONNECTIONS AND METERS.

During the year 57 connections have been taken from the Council's mains and 24 meters installed. These are supplying farms, private dwelling houses etc., in the Bedale Rural District.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The position regarding sewers and disposal works has not changed during the year under review. The volume of sewage discharged to the sewers is increasing all the time and the maintenance of the disposal arrangements in a decent condition is becoming increasingly difficult. There does appear to be a chance that the Carthorpe and possibly the Bedale and Aiskew Scheme may be allowed to proceed during 1956.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The refuse collection in the area is still undertaken by contract. Ashpits with privies are cleansed once every three months, dry ashpits are no longer cleaned out by the Council and dustbins are emptied weekly or fortnightly depending on the area concerned. The service has been satisfactory and where complaints of non-collection have been received they have been quickly dealt with.

The conversion of privies to water closets has been carried out in 35 cases but this work cannot proceed rapidly until proper sewers are available. It is estimated that there are still about 1,000 privy ashpits in use throughout the district.

RODENT CONTROL.

No staff has been employed on this work for the past year but the Council's properties have been dealt with where necessary and there are no serious infestations on any of these premises. Where the presence of rats on private properties is observed the occupier is asked to deal with the infestation and is advised on the

RODENT CONTROL (Cont.)

best methods to secure clearance of the vermin.

HOUSING.

Upon receipt of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's instructions regarding Slum Clearance a survey of all houses was commenced and this is being followed by detailed inspections of the unfit houses. The full effect of these inspections has not yet become apparent but a number of Slum Clearance schemes are being formulated.

One Clearance Area has been confirmed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government at Nosterfield and a second at Scruton is now receiving their consideration. Eleven houses are involved in these two schemes and in due course the tenants will be re-housed and the areas cleared. In addition a number of individual unfit houses are being dealt with.

The re-housing of tenants from the Plews Yard Clearance Area at Aiskew has continued and many of the houses are now closed. Demolition cannot properly proceed however until all the houses are vacant and it is becoming obvious that the speed at which the Slum Clearance schemes can proceed is largely dependent on the rate at which housing accommodation can be provided for the occupants of the houses involved.

The Council's house building programme has proceeded steadily and 24 houses have been completed and occupied. A number of the tenants of these new houses are from slum clearance areas. A further 41 houses are in course of erection at South End, Bedale and many of these should be completed during 1956.

The bungalows (ex W.L.A. Hostel) at Leeming Bar have continued in use and some are now serving a very useful purpose by providing accommodation for old persons and persons living alone.

Private house building has continued and 7 houses have been completed during the year.

The improvement and re-conditioning of existing houses with grant assistance under the Housing Acts has been encouraged and many owners have taken advantage of this scheme. The result has been that many houses which would otherwise have become unfit for occupation are being saved and will provide excellent living accommodation, at much less than the cost of new houses. Grants have been made for improvements to 10 houses during the year.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Four slaughterhouses are licensed in the area, two being large modern premises and two smaller private businesses. All are provided with proper lairages, and separate cooling halls and the larger premises have the latest equipment for humane slaughtering, the smaller businesses do not kill sufficient animals to merit the installation of this equipment though on these premises the slaughtering standards are very good and comply with the new legislation on slaughterhouse requirements.

All meat is inspected before leaving the slaughterhouses and a very large proportion of the carcasses are sent to the butchers and traders outside the area. A statement showing the number of animals slaughtered and carcasses etc. condemned is attached to the report and from this it is interesting to note that 87748 animals were slaughtered during the year.

The bulk of the milk supplied in the area is received from large bottling establishments situated outside the district and is delivered to the consumer in the unopened bottles. Empty bottles are collected and returned to the bottlers for cleansing.

FOOD SHOPS.

The food shops in the area are generally satisfactory but many of them may require improvements under the Food Hygiene Regulations which will come into operation on January 1st, 1956. A full inspection of all food shops will be made under these Regulations and such work as may be necessary will be insisted upon.

APPENDIX A.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED, 1955.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	3179	461	213	10646	73249	-
Number inspected	3179	461	213	10646	73249	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u> Whole carcasses condemned	6	9	8	58	86	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned		80	6	99	940	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	7.3	19.3	6.6	1.4	1.4	
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u> Whole carcasses condemned	8	19			21	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	281	136			2284	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	9.0	33.4			3.1	
<u>Cysticercosis</u> Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned					1	
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration			1			
Generalised and totally condemned		N				

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Pneumonia	32	Nil
Scarlet Fever	5	Nil
Erysipelas	5	Nil
Measles	190	Nil
Poliomyelitis	1 non paralytic	Nil
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	8	Nil
Undulant Fever	1	Nil
Food Poisoning	Nil	Nil

The higher incidence of pneumonia was associated with the general increase of mild respiratory infections during the year. The cases however, were not of a serious type as evidenced by the fact that there were no deaths from the disease.

It is gratifying to note that no cases of diphtheria occurred in the area but unless parents are kept constantly alive to the importance of immunisation freedom from this deadly disease will not continue.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Only two new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year. Both were males and in each case the disease was of Respiratory origin.

Case 1 A Civilian aged 21 years.

Case 2 An R.A.F. Service man aged 20 years.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis during the Year.

In concluding my Report I would like to take the opportunity of expressing my thanks to your Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor Mr. J. F. Dunning and to your Waterworks Manager for their Valuable assistance throughout the Year.

I have the honour to be Sir, Madam and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

ALAN W. HAINCELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

